

3. How do we acquire a generous spirit?

Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.
Luke 12:32

Jesus says, "You've been given the kingdom, and only if you see you've been given the kingdom apart from your efforts, will you then be free to give in generous ways."

Jesus puts it another way:

"Anyone who stores up rather than giving them away does it because they're not rich toward God."
Luke 12:21

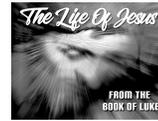
Jesus is saying: If you worry about money, if you're resentful of those who have money, if you're running after money, or if you just fail to give money away generously, it's because you're not rich toward God. You lack inner wealth.

"You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people,"
(people can be translated *treasure*)
1 Peter 2:9

Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving. ...⁹ You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.
2 Corinthians 8:7,9

Every treasure except Jesus will demand that you die to purchase it, but Jesus Christ is the only treasure that has died to purchase you.
Pastor/Author Tim Keller

March 17th, 2019 Dan Wilvers Part 11 (What it means to follow Jesus)



How To Keep Money In It's Proper Place

Luke 12:13-34

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." ¹⁴ Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" ¹⁵ Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." ¹⁶ And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' ¹⁸ Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." ' ²⁰ But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' ²¹ This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God." ²² Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. ²³ Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. ²⁴ Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! ²⁵ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? ²⁶ Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? ²⁷ Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ²⁸ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. ³⁰ For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. ³² Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." *This is God's Word*

I. Beware Of Money Blindness

"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed ..." vs. 15

Greed by its very nature hides itself from you.

The mere fact that Jesus says, "Watch out!" is because we're not watching out.

II.. What Is Greed?

When money is too important, too central to your existence.

The bigger question is how do we know if we've crossed that line?

1. When we gloat about our wealth.

And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."' *Luke 12:19*

2. When we worry about our wealth.

Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear."' *Luke 12:22*

If you worry about having enough, you have set your heart on material things just as much as the gloating greedy person.

"And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it." *Luke 12:29*

"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed ..."' *Luke 12:15*

2 Kinds of Greed:

1. Greed motivated by Security

"Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Luke 12:24

2. Greed motivated by Beauty

"Consider the lilies: They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these."' *Luke 12:27*

One kind of greed occurs when you set your heart on money as your **security**, when you look to it to make you safe.

Perfect example of this in verse 19 when this rich man has a great year, and he says, "I will say to myself." "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." Luke 12:19

In other words, here's what the man is saying deep in his heart:
*"Here's how to have control no matter what goes wrong."
Here's how to be safe in a dangerous world.
Have lots of money set aside just for you"*

On the other hand, there are people who look to money not as their security but as their beauty. They're like lilies.

See, only God can make you **secure**, but Jesus says only God makes you **beautiful**, too.

We look at money not so much as the way they get our security but as the way they make ourselves **feel worthy, feel important**. With this kind of greed, **we spend a lot on ourselves**. We're willing to buy things that have a way of making ourselves feel more attractive and desirable.

The sign of money as your security
turns you into a **saving sickness**.

The sign of money as beauty turns you
into a **spending sickness**.

2 Practical Signs Money is too Important:

1. You Chase After It.

"For the pagan world runs after all such things ..."' *Luke 12:30*

2. You Store Up.

This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God." *Luke 12:21*